

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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## DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

<http://dmh.lacounty.gov>

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Reply To: (213) 738-4601  
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March 22, 2011

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Marvin J. Southard, D.S.W.  
Director of Mental Health

SUBJECT: **ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO ENTER INTO A SOLE  
SOURCE CONTRACT NEGOTIATION WITH MULTISYSTEMIC  
THERAPY SERVICES, INC.**

This memo is to comply with the Board of Supervisors' Policy Manual, Section 5.100, Sole Source Contract, by notifying your Board of the Department of Mental Health's (DMH) intention to enter into contract negotiations and initiate a Sole Source Agreement with Multisystemic Therapy Services, Inc. (MST Services). Through a Sole Source Agreement, MST Services will continue to provide training, consultation, and licensure for mental health clinicians practicing the copyrighted Multisystemic Therapy (MST) treatment intervention in the County of Los Angeles.

Established in 1996, MST Services is a licensed organization for the dissemination of MST. Researchers at this agency developed the MST treatment model, an evidence-based practice that is dedicated to serving troubled adolescents involved with the juvenile justice system. This model combines community and family based therapies to target and decrease antisocial behavior, incarceration, and drug abuse while increasing positive family relationships and academic performance. The MST treatment model has proven to be effective in over 30 states within the United States as well as 12 other countries. This includes improved outcomes for youth and their families, such as decreased aggression and criminal involvement, as well as improved academic and family functioning. Similar outcomes have been found in the County of Los Angeles. Specifically, the RAND Corporation evaluation of the program has repeatedly demonstrated that youth in the MST program have significantly lower arrest, incarceration and probation violation rates, and complete probation, restitution and community service at a significantly higher rate than a comparison group of youth who did not participate in MST.

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"*

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In order to achieve the improved outcomes described above MST providers need assistance in properly practicing MST in accordance with the interventions described in original clinical trials conducted by MST Services. As such, MST Services is uniquely qualified as the sole provider of these services, which include comprehensive assistance with the implementation and licensure of MST programs in addition to ongoing clinical training and quality assurance support. These services support and facilitate DMH and its providers in serving severely and persistently mentally ill adults and seriously emotionally disturbed children, adolescents and their families residing throughout the County of Los Angeles.

DMH will renew its existing consultant services agreement with MST Services for Fiscal Years 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15, and 2015-16. The funding for this will be State allocated Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) and Title IVE Child Welfare Waiver Capped Allocation through an Intrafund Transfer from the Probation Department for a Total Contract Amount of \$127,500 per fiscal year, totaling \$637,500 for five years.

Unless otherwise instructed by a Board office within two (2) weeks, DMH will proceed with entering into contract negotiations with MST Services, Inc. DMH will work closely with both the Office of the County Counsel and the Chief Executive Office in preparing the agreement.

MJS:SDT:KS:ks

c: Health Deputies  
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